

REMARKS/ARGUMENTS

Claims 1-3 and 6-10 are pending. The specification has been amended to shorten the Abstract and to add a sentence regarding reference numbered component 38. Claims 4, 5, 11 and 12 have been canceled. Claims 1-3 and 7-10 have been amended to overcome various grounds of rejection. Most significantly are the amendments to claims 1 and 7 which now recite the unique ball and socket as part of the combination including a second stage regulator and an air pressure hose. Also significant is the amendment which makes the gap between the bushings a sealed gap with lubricant. It should also be noted that the boot which wipes the socket extends over the connected hose and has a wiper extending over the socket. Reconsideration is respectfully requested.

Non-prior art matters

It is believed that the amendments to the specification overcome the drawing objection and the Abstract issue. The trademark TEFLON is believed to be properly used in the description. The amendments to the claims are believed to have overcome the objections. The cancellation of claims 4, 5, 11 and 12 renders moot the rejection under 35 USC 112 second paragraph.

AMENDMENT Continued
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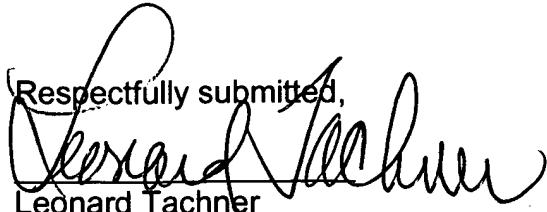
Prior Art Rejections

Claims 1-3 and 6-10 were rejected under 35 USC 102(b) as being allegedly anticipated by Shreeve. The claims now recite the ball and socket as connecting the regulator to the air pressure hose. Moreover, they also recite a "sealed gap" formed between the bushings. Shreeve's "gap" is not sealed as indicated by his requirement for a lubricant supply port 17 in his FIG. 1 and as discussed at page 2, line 72. Clearly, Shreeve does not anticipate the Applicant's claims as amended herein.

Claims 1-3, 6-8 and 10 were rejected under 35 USC 102(b) as being allegedly anticipated by Reifenberger et al. The aforementioned amendments also overcome this rejection. Reifenberger et al does not refer to a regulator and air pressure hose. Moreover, there is no sealed annular gap having an O-ring surrounding the ball within said gap which receives a lubricant as recited in Applicant's claims 2 and 9. More specifically, there is no wiper boot which wipes the socket upon rotation of the ball as recited in Applicant's claims 6 and 7-10. The rejection under 35 USC 103(a) is moot based on the cancellation of claims 4, 5, 11 and 12.

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Based upon the foregoing amendments and remarks, the objections and rejections are all either moot or should otherwise be deemed to be overcome. An allowance of pending claims 1-3 and 6-10 is therefore solicited.

Respectfully submitted,

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